



House Education Newsletter

February 2006

For complete information on the actions of the House of Representatives,, please visit our web-site. You can also view the schedule of committee meetings, hearings. other events.

House Communications
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Legislative Action

What a week!!! There was hardly a moment's rest this week under the Gold Dome— your legislators were hard at work making sure that their constituents' voices were heard here in Atlanta.

House Bill 950 passed the Floor on Tuesday and now awaits Senate Action. The bill addresses some concerns

that were raised this past holiday season and prohibits the government from restricting public employees from verbally celebrating public and legal holidays. For example, students and teachers would be able to say the words "Merry Christmas," and be perfectly within their legal rights.

Another item on the way over to the Senate Floor is HB 941, which classifies the Ten Commandments as a historical document. This classification allows for the document to be

posted in public places such as schools and court houses.

Members debate for several hours on Thursday concerning HB 1059. This piece of legislation addresses laws

concerning sexual predators and aims to protect Georgia's children. It has passed the House, and will be

addressed by the Senate.

Legislative action wasn't restricted to the House Floor, a multitude of meetings were held throughout the week during which several bills were addressed. Check out the House Committee Websites for archived sessions of exactly what took place.



House Education Committee

Chairman Brooks Coleman

First elected to office in 1993, Representative and Motivational Speaker Brooks Coleman is currently serving the constituents of District 97 as the Chairman of the Education Committee. His service to them does not stop there; he is also currently a member of the Retirement, Natural Resources and Intra-Governmental Affairs Committees.

Graduating from Diploma Bass High School in Atlanta in 1958, Representative Coleman later attended Mercer University where he earned his B.A. in Elementary Education, focusing on Science. He served as his Senior Class President there and was also began his membership in the Blue Key Honor Society. In 1966, he went on to fulfill all graduate requirements necessary for a Master's in Education/Supervision from the University of Georgia. He didn't stop there, in 1970 he earned an Ed. S in Elementary Education focusing on Reading from the University of Georgia and in 1975 earned another one from Georgia State University for Administration/Supervision. In 1978, he earned his Ph.D. in Administration/Curriculum from Georgia State University.

As a result of his educational achievements, Chairman Coleman has had the opportunity to hold several high ranking positions in the Education System. He has served as Assistant Superintendent, Director of Curriculum Development and as an Administrative Assistant to Superintendent. Brooks has been a Principal of 3 different schools over the years and taught at 2. He has been an active member and teacher at the Duluth First Baptist Church since 1962. Brooks is also an accomplished writer, with three educational publications under his belt.

He and his wife Mary Claire have been blessed with a daughter, Amy who is a teacher in Gwinnett County. Representative Coleman enjoys boating, skiing, arts and crafts, furniture refinishing, gardening and auctioneering. He also has a great interest in collecting and repairing antique clocks and trains. In fact, he actually restored the clock that is in the Governor's office, a rare antique that had been sent off to surplus before he spotted it! Please visit our website for more information.



A Note from One of Our Interns



Hello folks, my name is Weston Aldridge, I am a 23 year old Pre-Law student at Georgia State University and a native of the City of Atlanta. Having grown up with skyscrapers in my backyard, I find a certain comfort

in working at the Capitol this semester. After all, I can nearly see my street from the fourth floor of the Capitol. I was accepted into this internship through the legislative internship program at Georgia State University. I am graciously honored that I was chosen for this internship by my supervisors, Dr. Thomas and Ms. Shockley, from a pool of competitive candidates. Here at

the Capitol I am the intern in the Majority Whip's office, and am charged with many duties that include; compiling and distributing the whip's reports, research on future bills, and constituent services. All of these duties that are entrusted to me, are of the utmost important and I treat them accordingly.

When my internship here at the Capitol comes to an end, I hope to return to this great building as soon as possible, whether it be as another intern, or an aide. In addition to hopefully returning to this building, I also plan on finishing my degree before the year's

end, taking the LSAT, and applying to Law School.

After law school, who knows where life will take me? Maybe my work will take me to another country? Maybe I will be able serve my Country, as a Representative or Senator? Maybe I'll work for an NGO, ensuring that many poverty stricken citizens of third world nations get the funding they need to eat? But most importantly, I hope to enter into a career that will make me feel morally successful and fiscally successful, all while maintaining a full head of hair. Wish me luck.

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